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March 9, 2023

Letter of Testimony to OPPOSE: SB 1148 Authorizing Killing And Hunting Of Black Bear

To the Honorable Members of the Environment Committee

Wilton Go Green is writing to encourage the Environment Committee to **OPPOSE SB 1148**. Reports of increased sightings or incidents of black bears are causing many to think that hunting is the answer. Success in preventing human interactions with black bears depends on **people changing their own behavior**. Most interactions occur because bears are smart, opportunistic feeders who can smell food a mile away and CT residents need to be educated on how to not lure bears to their homes/businesses. The highest number of bear incidents in CT are issues with bird feeders and trash cans – which underscores that these problems are preventable.

Although SB 1148 adds language to address the need to remove some of these human interactions by “prohibiting bird feeders and other unintentional and intentional feeding of potentially dangerous animals” the law should not not authorize a lottery of bear hunting.

We encourage you to focus your attention on the CT Coalition to Protect Black Bears which has provided legislation in HB5160 that promotes effective and non-lethal strategies to prevent problems with black bears as a solution, NOT hunting.

Thank you for your consideration

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